

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub.B3> 1. A gaming apparatus for use by at least one game player to play games of chance on the apparatus, the gaming apparatus comprising in combination:

A. a first game housing portion, a first game of chance mounted in the first housing portion, a first game outcome display connected to the first game of chance, an award display connected to the first game of chance, and a first game actuator connected to the first game of chance and being activatable for play by the game player to display on the first game outcome display at least one from among a first game range of first game chance outcomes and to display on the first game award display an award for the player upon the appearance of at least a predetermined first game award outcome on the first game outcome display; and

B. a second game housing portion, a second game of chance mounted in the second housing portion and connected to the first game of chance, a second game outcome display connected to the second game of chance, and a second game actuator connected to the second game of chance and being activatable for play upon the occurrence of at least a predetermined chance event in the first game of chance to display on the second game outcome display (i) at least one from among a second game range of second game chance outcomes and (ii) an alteration of the first game outcome procured or to be procured in

the first game of chance upon the occurrence of at least a predetermined first game alteration outcome in the second game of chance.

2. The gaming apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second game also has a second game award display connected to the second game of chance which, upon play of the second game, displays a second game award that can alter the award to the game player.
3. The gaming apparatus of claim 1 wherein the range of second game chance outcomes includes a chance-improving outcome whereby the game player's chance of procuring at least one future first game outcome and future award is improved.
4. The gaming apparatus of claim 3 wherein the second game also has a second game award display connected to the second game of chance which, upon play of the second game, displays a second game award that can alter the award to the game player.
5. The gaming apparatus of claim 1 wherein the range of second game chance outcomes includes a first game playing outcome whereby the first game of chance may be played again, and wherein the second game of chance is connected to the first game of chance so that the second game of chance is again activatable upon the occurrence of the or another predetermined event in the first game of chance.

6. The gaming apparatus of claim 2 the range of second game chance outcomes includes a first game playing outcome whereby the first game of chance may be played again, and wherein the second game of chance is connected to the first game of chance so that the second game of chance is again activatable upon the occurrence of the or another predetermined event in the first game of chance.

7. The gaming apparatus of claim 3 the range of second game chance outcomes includes a first game playing outcome whereby the first game of chance may be played again, and wherein the second game of chance is connected to the first game of chance so that the second game of chance is again activatable upon the occurrence of the or another predetermined event in the first game of chance.

8. The gaming apparatus of claim 4 the range of second game chance outcomes includes a first game playing outcome whereby the first game of chance may be played again, and wherein the second game of chance is connected to the first game of chance so that the second game of chance is again activatable upon the occurrence of the or another predetermined event in the first game of chance.

Swb.B4> 9. A gaming apparatus of use by at least one game player to play a game of chance on the

apparatus, the gaming apparatus comprising in combination:

- A. a first game of chance apparatus having a first game, a first game actuator connected to the first game, a first game outcome display connected to the first game, and a first game awarding mechanism whereby the game player is provided an award in the event that at least one predetermined award outcome appears in the first game outcome display;
- B. a second game of chance apparatus having a second game and a second game outcome display connected to the second game, the second game of chance apparatus being mounted proximate to the first game of chance apparatus whereby the game player can observe from one location both the first game of chance and the second game of chance;
- C. a second game activator interconnecting the first and second games of chance whereby the second game of chance can be activated to play the second game upon the appearance of at least one predetermined second game outcome in the first game outcome display; and
- D. a game outcome linkage interconnecting the first and second games of chance to change the first game outcome in the first game outcome display upon the appearance of at least one predetermined changing outcome in the second game outcome display.

10. The gaming apparatus of claim 9 wherein the second game of chance apparatus also includes a second game awarding mechanism connected to the second game whereby the game player is provided an additional award in the event that at least one predetermined second award

outcome appears in the second game outcome display.

11. The gaming apparatus of claim 9 including a game outcome bank connected to the second game of chance apparatus whereby at least one second game outcome may be stored and later transferred by the first game outcome linkage to the first game outcome display in the first game of chance.
12. The gaming apparatus of claim 10 including a game outcome bank connected to the second game of chance apparatus whereby at least one second game outcome may be stored and later transferred by the first game outcome linkage to the first game outcome display in the first game of chance.
13. The gaming apparatus of claim 12 wherein the game outcome bank is mounted in the second game of chance apparatus.
14. The gaming apparatus of claim 12 wherein the second game outcome can alter the likelihood of procuring the or another outcome and award in the first game.

15. The gaming apparatus of claim 9 wherein at least one predetermined changing outcome allows the first game of chance apparatus to be played again, and the second game activator is

adapted to again activate the second game-of-chance apparatus upon the occurrence of the one or another predetermined first game outcome in the first game chance apparatus.

16. The gaming apparatus of claim 10 wherein at least one predetermined changing outcome allows the first game of chance apparatus to be played again, and the second game activator is adapted to again activate the second game of chance apparatus upon the occurrence of the one or another predetermined first game outcome in the first game chance apparatus.

17. The gaming apparatus of claim 11 wherein at least one predetermined changing outcome allows the first game of chance apparatus to be played again, and the second game activator is adapted to again activate the second game of chance apparatus upon the occurrence of the one or another predetermined first game outcome in the first game chance apparatus.

18. The gaming apparatus of claim 12 wherein at least one predetermined changing outcome allows the first game of chance apparatus to be played again, and the second game activator is adapted to again activate the second game of chance apparatus upon the occurrence of the one or another predetermined first game outcome in the first game chance apparatus.

Sub. B5 > 19. The gaming apparatus of claim 10 wherein the first game of chance apparatus is mounted adjacent to the second game of apparatus.

20. The gaming apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first game of chance apparatus is mounted adjacent to the second game of apparatus.

21. The gaming apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first game of chance apparatus is mounted adjacent to the second game of apparatus.

22. The gaming apparatus of claim 10 wherein one of the first or second game of chance apparatus includes a spinning wheel game.

23. The gaming apparatus of claim 12 wherein one of the first or second game of chance apparatus includes a spinning wheel game.

24. The gaming apparatus of claim 16 wherein one of the first or second game of chance apparatus includes a spinning wheel game.

25. The gaming apparatus of claim 17 wherein one of the first or second game of chance apparatus includes a spinning wheel game.

26. The gaming apparatus of claim 19 wherein one of the first or second game of chance

apparatus includes a spinning wheel game.

27. The gaming apparatus of claim 20 wherein the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus includes a spinning reel game.

28. The gaming apparatus of claim 21 wherein the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus includes a spinning reel game.

29. The gaming apparatus of claim 22 wherein the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus includes a spinning reel game.

30. The gaming apparatus of claim 23 wherein the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus includes a spinning reel game.

31. The gaming apparatus of claim 24 wherein the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus includes a spinning reel game.

32. The gaming apparatus of claim 20 wherein one of the first or second game of chance apparatus is mounted on top of the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus.

33. The gaming apparatus of claim 22 wherein the one of the first or second game of chance apparatus is mounted on top of the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus.

34. The gaming apparatus of claim 24 wherein the one of the first or second game of chance apparatus is mounted on top of the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus.

35. The gaming apparatus of claim 27 wherein the one of the first or second game of chance apparatus is mounted on top of the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus.

36. The gaming apparatus of claim 29 wherein the one of the first or second game of chance apparatus is mounted on top of the other of the first or second game of chance apparatus.

37. A multi-game apparatus of use by at least one game player to play multiple games on the apparatus, the gaming apparatus comprising in combination:

- A. a first game apparatus activatable for play to procure a first game outcome from among a plurality of possible first game outcomes;
- B. a concentric wheel game apparatus mounted proximate to the first game-of-chance apparatus, the concentric wheel game apparatus including an outer wheel rotatable to yield a first wheel outcome and an inner wheel rotatable to yield a second wheel outcome
- C. a wheel game activator interconnecting the first game apparatus and concentric wheel

game apparatus and being adapted to activate the concentric wheel game for play upon the occurrence of at least one predetermined first game outcome in the first game; and

D. a first game outcome linkage being adapted to change the outcome in the first game upon the occurrence of at least one among a plurality of possible first wheel outcomes or second wheel outcomes in the concentric wheel game apparatus.

38. The multi-game apparatus of claim 37 in which the first game and the concentric wheel game are games of chance, and at least one among the first game outcome, first wheel outcome, and second wheel outcome includes an award to the game player.

39. The multi-game apparatus of claim 37 in which the concentric wheel game is adapted to spin the outer wheel and interior wheel sequentially.

40. The multi-game apparatus of claim 38 in which the concentric wheel game is adapted to spin the outer wheel and interior wheel sequentially.

41. The multi-game apparatus of claim 37 in which the first wheel outcome or second wheel outcome include a bank item useable to alter the or a later first game outcome.

42. The multi-game apparatus of claim 39 in which the first wheel outcome or second wheel

outcome include a bank item useable to alter the or a later first game outcome.

43. The multi-game apparatus of claim 39 in which the first wheel outcome or second wheel outcome include a bank item to alter the or a later first game outcome.

44. The multi-game apparatus of claim 40 in which the first wheel outcome or second wheel outcome include a bank item useable to alter the or a later first game outcome.

45. The multi-game apparatus of claim 37 in which the first game apparatus includes a spinning reel game and the plurality of first game outcomes include at least one possible award to the game player.

46. The multi-game apparatus of claim 40 in which the first game apparatus includes a spinning reel game and the plurality of first game outcomes includes at least one possible award to the game player.

47. The multi-game apparatus of claim 41 in which the first game apparatus includes a spinning reel game and the plurality of first game outcomes includes at least one possible award to the game player.

48. The multi-game apparatus of claim 42 in which the first game apparatus includes a spinning reel game and the plurality of first game outcomes includes at least one possible award to the game player.

49. The multi-game apparatus of claim 44 in which the first game apparatus includes a spinning reel game and the plurality of first game outcomes includes at least one possible award to the game player.

50. A multi-game of chance apparatus of the type providing a chance award to a game player when the game player plays the game, the apparatus comprising in combination:

- A. a first game of chance controller;
- B. a first game of chance outcome display connected to the first game of chance controller;
- C. a game of chance award display connected to the first game of chance controller and providing an award to the player in the event at least one predetermined outcome appears in the first game of chance outcome display;
- D. a second game of chance controller;
- E. a second game of chance outcome display connected to the first game of chance controller; and
- F. an outcome changing linkage whereby the second game of chance outcome display changes in the event of at least one predetermined change outcome appears in the second

game of chance outcome display.

51. The multi-game apparatus of claim 50 in which the outcome changing linkage includes an outcome reserve bank whereby outcomes from the first or second game of chance outcome display may be stored for later plays of the fist or second game of chance.
52. The multi-game apparatus of claim 50 also having a second game of chance award display connected to the second game of chance whereby the total award provided to the game player can increase based on a second game of chance award provided by the second game of chance.
53. The multi-game apparatus of claim 51 also having a second game of chance award display connected to the second game of chance whereby the total award provided to the game player can increase based on a second game of chance award provided by the second game of chance.
54. The multi-game apparatus of claim 50 the first and second game of chance controllers, the first and second outcome displays, the award display, and the outcome linkage are mounted in an integral game frame.

55. The multi-game apparatus of claim 51 the first and second game of chance controllers, the first and second outcome displays, the award display, and the outcome linkage are mounted in an integral game frame.

56. The multi-game apparatus of claim 52 the first and second game of chance controllers, the first and second outcome displays, the award display, and the outcome linkage are mounted in an integral game frame.

57. The multi-game apparatus of claim 53 the first and second game of chance controllers, the first and second outcome displays, the award display, and the outcome linkage are mounted in an integral game frame.

58. A wheel game of chance apparatus of the type providing an award to a player playing the wheel game of chance apparatus, the apparatus comprising in combination:

- A. at least a first game wheel having drive teeth in the periphery of the first game wheel;
- B. a wheel drive mounted in the apparatus and having a resilient gear with gear teeth matingly engaging the drive teeth in the first game wheel to secure and rotate the game wheel within the apparatus.

59. The wheel game of chance apparatus of claim 58 wherein the wheel drive also has a drive

shaft and the resilient gear has a central shaft tube mounted on the drive shaft, a stiffened outer wheel section with the gear teeth on the outer circumferential periphery of the outer wheel section, and a flexible intermediate section between the shaft tube and the outer wheel section.

60. The wheel game of chance apparatus of claim 59 wherein the flexible intermediate section has an arcuate cross-section with an outer arm connected to the outer wheel section and an inner arm connected to the central shaft tube.

61. A wheel game of chance apparatus of the type providing an award to a player playing the wheel game of chance apparatus, the apparatus comprising in combination:

A. at least a first game wheel coaxial with a second game wheel, each said game wheel having drive teeth in the circumferential periphery of said game wheel;

B. at least three wheel drives mounted in the apparatus, each said drive having a resilient driven gear with gear teeth matingly engaging the drive teeth in one of the three game wheels to secure and controllably drive the rotation of the one game wheel within the apparatus.

62. The wheel game of chance apparatus of claim 59 wherein each wheel drive also has a drive shaft and each resilient driven gear for each such wheel drive has a central shaft tube

mounted on said drive shaft, a stiffened outer wheel section with the gear teeth on the outer circumferential periphery of the outer wheel section of said resilient driven gear, and a flexible intermediate section between the shaft tube and the outer wheel section of said resilient driven gear.

63. The wheel game of chance apparatus of claim 62 wherein the flexible intermediate section of each such resilient driven gear has a Z-shaped cross-section with an outer arm connected to the outer wheel section and an inner arm connected to the central shaft tube of such resilient driven gear.

64. The wheel game of chance apparatus of claim 63 wherein the gear teeth are rounded, the drive teeth are angled, each said wheel drive provides resilient support for each said game wheel, and the first wheel drive controllably rotates the first game wheel and the second wheel drive controllably rotates the second game wheel.

Sw. Bl> 65. A method of playing games of chance, comprising:

- A. actuating a base game of chance to procure a first base game outcome and, upon the appearance of a predetermined base game outcome in the base game of chance, a first bonus opportunity to play a bonus game of chance;
- B. actuating the bonus game of chance to procure a bonus game outcome and, upon the

appearance of a predetermined bonus game outcome in the bonus game of chance, a second bonus opportunity to again play the base game of chance; and

C. in the event of the second bonus opportunity, again actuating the base game of chance to procure a second base game outcome.

66. The game playing method of claim 65 wherein, in the bonus game actuating step (B), the predetermined bonus game outcome alters the base game outcome in the base game of chance.

67. The game playing method of claim 65 wherein, in the bonus game actuating step (B), the predetermined bonus game outcome includes a bank portion transferred to a game bank for alteration of the or another base game outcome in the base game of chance.

68. A method of playing games of chance, comprising:

A. actuating a base game of chance to procure a first base game outcome and, upon the appearance of a first predetermined base game outcome in the base game of chance, a base game award including a first bonus opportunity to play a bonus game of chance; and

B. actuating the bonus game of chance to procure a bonus game outcome and, upon the appearance of a predetermined bonus game outcome in the bonus game of chance, a bonus award including a bank portion transferred to a game bank for alteration of the or

another base game outcome in the base game of chance.

69. The game playing method of claim 68 wherein, in the bonus game actuating step (B), the bonus award may include a second bonus opportunity to play the base game of chance, and wherein the method also includes as step (C): again actuating the base game of chance to procure a second base game outcome.

70. The game playing method of claim 68 wherein, the actuating step (C), the second base game outcome can include a repeat bonus opportunity to play the base or bonus game of chance upon the appearance of the first or another predetermined base game outcome in the base game of chance.

71. The game playing method of claim 68 wherein, in the bonus game actuating step (B), the bonus game outcome can include a bank event outcome that alters the contents of a game bank for alteration of the first or another base game outcome.

72. The game playing method of claim 69 wherein, in the bonus game actuating step (B), the bonus game outcome can include a bank event outcome that alters the contents of a game bank for alteration of the first or another base game outcome.

73. The game playing method of claim 70 wherein, in the bonus game actuating step (B), the bonus game outcome can include a bank event outcome that alters the contents of a game bank for alteration of the first or another base game outcome.

74. The game playing method of claim 68 wherein the bonus game of chance includes a wheel game having a plurality of concentric wheels that spin independently to a stop.

75. The game playing method of claim 69 wherein the bonus game of chance includes a wheel game having a plurality of concentric wheels that spin independently to a stop.

76. The game playing method of claim 70 wherein the bonus game of chance includes a wheel game having a plurality of concentric wheels that spin independently to a stop.

77. The game playing method of claim 71 wherein the bonus game of chance includes a wheel game having a plurality of concentric wheels that spin independently to a stop.

78. The game playing method of claim 72 wherein the bonus game of chance includes a wheel game having a plurality of concentric wheels that spin independently to a stop.

79. The game playing method of claim 73 wherein the bonus game of chance includes a wheel game having a plurality of concentric wheels that spin independently to a stop.